

Message Text

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TAGS: SCUL, UR

SUBJ: BICENTENNIAL FILM FESTIVAL

REF: AO USIA 22303; B) MOSCOW 12753; C) MOSCOW 11931

1. EMBOFFS HAD BEEN TOLD THAT JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL IN USSR WAS BEST MODEL FOR PROPOSED US EVEN SINCE JAPNESE HAVE "SENDING SIDE PAYS" ARRANGEMENT WITH SOVIETS. RECENT DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH JAPANESE EBASSY OFFICER CONFIRMED FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT BUT ALSO REVEALED OTHER PRACITICES WHICH ARE NOT CUREENT US PLANS.

2. JAPANESE DO PAY ALL COSTS OF FESTIVAL IN USSR (THEATRE RENTALS, TRANSPORTATION, SUB-TITLING, ETC) AND SOVIETS PAY FOR SIMILAR SERVICES IN JAPAN. HOWEVER, IN JAPAN SOVIETS DEAL WITH PRIVATE FILM COMPANIES WHOSE EXPENSES HAVE BEEN RISING EACH YEAR. THE SOVIETS (GOSKINO) IN TURN HAVE RAISED THE CHARGES FOR THE JAPANESE FESTIVALS HERE TO THE POINT WHERE THE JAPANESE ARE CONSIDERING TERMINATING THIER EVENTS.

3. EVEN NOW, THE EMBASSY OFFICER STATED, JAPANESE EVENT CAN HARDLY BE CALLED A FESTIVAL. ONY THREE OR FVMXVOUR FILMS ARE USUALLY SHOWN (TWO FEATURES AND TWO DOCUMENTARIES); TWO OR THREE CITIES ARE VISITED BUT NORMALLY THE FILMS ARE SHOWN

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ONLY TWO OR THREE DAYS IN EACH CITY WITH ONLY TWO OR THREE

SCREENINGS PER DAY. ONLY FILMS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN SHOWN IN THE USSR ARE USUALLY IN THE FESTIVALS, THUS AVOIDING THE CENSORSHIP PROBLEM.

4. THERE ARE NO TICKET SALES OR GENERAL PUBLIC ADMITTANCE; ALL TICKETS ARE INVITATIONAL. IN MOSCOW THE EMBASSY DISTRIBUTES MANY OF THE TICKETS, BUT THE OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL GOSKINO ISSUES MOST OF THE INVITATIONS. BECAUSE OF RISING COSTS AND SCHEDULING PROBLEMS, MOSCOW IS NOT INCLUDED ON THIS YEAR'S SCHEDULE--BAKU AND NAKHODKA ARE THE PROPOSED SITES.

5. IN SUM, THE JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL IS A GREATLY SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF OUR PROPOSED BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL, AND EVEN SO, THEIR EXPERIENCES HAVE NOT BEEN ENCOURAGING.
STOESSEL

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